

STAT

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
23 OCTOBER 1982ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 10A

Top Polish banker is said to defect, bringing intelligence data to U.S.

By Michael J. Sniffen
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Poland's top banking official in North America has defected to the United States, bringing significant intelligence information, Reagan administration sources said yesterday.

The sources said CIA and FBI agents are interviewing the defector, Andrzej Treumann.

He arrived in New York in 1979 to

open the North American office of Bank Handlowy, which, under the Polish Ministry of Finance, has handled negotiations on rescheduling payment of Poland's foreign debt.

Treumann and his wife and daughter are in protective custody in the Washington area, said the sources, who declined to be identified.

The sources said a published allegation that Treumann was a top Polish spy is untrue.

"He's not in the category of an active intelligence agent. You usually don't find spies at his top-level-type job," said one source. "Nevertheless, he certainly has significant information of an intelligence nature, because whenever someone in Polish intelligence wanted something from the world of banking, they would go to him."

The sources said Treumann would be able to supply information about Polish intelligence personnel, personalities, targets and operational methods.

CIA spokesman Dale Peterson, asked if he knew anything about the defector, said, "We have been asked that question several times today and have no comment on it."

FBI spokesman Roger Young would not comment on the report.

The sources said they did not know why Treumann defected.

The New York Times reported yesterday that it learned Treumann stopped going to his Park Avenue office in late July and that reports began circulating in the banking community that he had vanished. He had told friends that he was scheduled to return to Poland in August, the Times said.

At that time, neighbors in the Queens apartment house where the banker lived said the family had not been seen for weeks.

In late August, the Times reported, Treumann's bank mailed a one-sentence notice to U.S. banks saying Treumann had "terminated his activities as our representative in the United States."

A call to Treumann's apartment Thursday night was answered by a man with a distinct Polish accent, who said, "Mr. Treumann doesn't live here any more. Good night."

Speaking of a possible motive for Treumann's defection, one source said, "Someone assigned here a long period of time can find life here very attractive, particularly in banking circles. Given the recent crackdown in Poland, the possibility of a transfer home could have led to the timing of the defection."

A number of Poles have defected to this country since martial law was declared in Poland, including Romuald Spasowski, former ambassador to the United States, and Zdzislaw Rurarz, former ambassador to Japan.

Before opening the bank's New York office, Treumann had been a senior official of the bank in Warsaw. The Times quoted U.S. officials as saying he helped arrange some of the larger Western loans to Poland in the mid-1970s.

Poland owes about \$26 billion to Western governments and banks, including \$1.6 billion to the U.S. government and \$1.4 billion to U.S. banks.

STAT